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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of time and eternity, You have presented us with the gift of another day. With wonderful fairness, You have given each of us the same number of hours and minutes. Forgive us when we abuse this gift by preoccupation with yesterday and anxiety about tomorrow. Remind us to tackle today's challenges and leave the past and the future to You.

Bless our Senators in their work. Give them understanding and courage to act on their convictions. When they are tempted to doubt, strengthen their faith. Order their lives by Your unfolding providence, and enable them to use the gift of time to work so that peace will reign in our world.

Bless our military and all who daily risk their lives for liberty. Sustain the families of these heroes and heroines and hasten the time of reunion. We pray this in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate returns to business today following the Memorial Day recess. I hope everyone had a safe and productive break.

Today, we will be in a period for morning business until 12:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between both sides of the aisle. At 12:30, we will recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly Republican policy luncheon. I understand the Democratic policy luncheon will occur tomorrow.

As a reminder, prior to the Memorial Day break, we tried to reach consent to begin consideration of the class action fairness bill. I reiterate that it has always been my hope we could finish the Defense authorization and the class action bill in a reasonable and timely way. Unfortunately, after spending a week on the Defense authorization bill we were still unable to reach an agreement for an amendment limitation.

In addition, there was an objection to proceeding to the class action fairness measure. A cloture vote is currently scheduled for 5:30 p.m. today on the motion to proceed to the class action bill. I hope it will not be necessary.

I will be talking with the Democratic leadership to see if we can find a way to finish the Defense authorization bill and begin the class action fairness bill without unnecessary delay.

We need to reach an agreement on how and when we will complete this important Defense authorization bill, and then we will begin the class action bill without the need for cloture.

I hope to announce shortly that we have reached an agreement for vitiating the 5:30 p.m. vote and that we will continue on the Defense bill with the expectation that Members will cooperate with the two managers to allow us to finish this Defense authorization bill.

I also should remind my colleagues that we will continue to work on judicial nominations as we proceed forward. I will be setting votes on those nominations each day. If we are able to vitiate the cloture vote today, we will schedule a vote on a judicial nomination today in its place as we will have a vote at 5:30 p.m. today.

Again, I will announce the voting schedule shortly.

Finally, we have 4 weeks during this legislative period. We have a lot to accomplish over that period of time. I hope we can use our time efficiently and get our work done.

### DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I also very briefly want to comment on the drug discount cards that are being made available and which take effect this month. This is June 1 and they take effect beginning today.

The discount cards, as my colleagues know, are a product of legislation signed by the President last December. The reality is that we have seniors today who are literally choosing between paying for their rent and paying for their food and obtaining prescription drugs.

One of the objectives set out in this piece of legislation and set out by the President of the United States was that we need to get help to those people who need help the most in terms of their prescription drugs. Thus, although this is a more comprehensive approach, affordable access to prescription drugs for seniors does not begin to take place for about a year and a half from now. I am delighted that just several months after passage of this bill and the signing into law by the President these prescription drug cards are available. They are available today, and they will have an impact today.

There are a couple of quick points that I would like to make: First of all, they are available to all Medicare enrollees who lack prescription drug coverage.

Second, the card itself will give a discount on average of about 17 percent. Seniors who do not have access through affordable access to prescription drugs can get these cards and on average get a discount of about 17 percent, which is a huge discount that can start literally today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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